

the constables, also the police officers of our cities and corporations. Now, sir, after these and the militia officers have been taken by the Confederacy, will you please to inform me what remains of the boasted *sovereignty* of the States? Do not reply by saying you have not enrolled the militia officers—you claim the right to do it and *may* undertake it at any time. God forbid that the rights and honor and the existence itself of the State should rest *only* upon the grace and mercy of a Bureau of Conscription. The rights of the State certainly rest upon a more solid basis than this. You also say that there are no means short of supernatural power by which you can know of the officers and employees of the State, to which my letter to Col. August referred outside of the law. That may be. In fact I do not know that it is required of you to know what officers are necessary to the ordinary operations of the State government. But it is certainly the business of the Chief Magistrate of the State to know, and it is especially his duty under the constitution to see that they are not interfered with in the discharge of their appropriate functions.

I cannot, therefore, recede from the position before assumed, that it is my duty to resist the conscription of all State officers and agents whose services are necessary to the proper and due administration of the affairs of the State, and of which necessity her authorities must of course be the judges.—Neither can the claim, plain and obvious as it is, be permitted to rest upon the grace of Congress as exemplified in the Exemption Bill, or the discretion and good will of those entrusted with the execution of the law, but upon those high and inalienable rights which by the genius of our government are deemed inherent in and inseparable from the sovereign character of the State. If it is the intention of the Confederate authorities to carry the execution of the law of conscription beyond this, I should be glad to be so informed at as early a day as possible. This city is to be stripped of its police officers to-morrow and the magistrates of many of the counties are already ordered into camp, and I desire the